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THE FINANCIAL SITUATION.

It is a habit of the Wall Street mind to compare prices independently of values and to hold obstinately that because prices have gone up tremendously within the space of a few years they must sooner or ater come down again of their own weight. Values change, and values alone can determine whether on a given level prices

are too high or too low, but the factor of values as distinct from prices is often lost sight of, and is generally, in fact, a thing altogether too academic to enter prominently into purely speculative calculations. The assertion that, when values are considered, prices are lower at the present time than they were in 1897 would be ridiculed offhand by all who cannot see any justification for higher prices, and yet it is an assertion that is theoretically sound. If values govern prices, which cannot be disputed, then the ultimate tendency of prices is to adjust themselves to values, and it is susceptible of demonstration that at the present time the disparity between values and prices in favor of prices is greater than it was in 1897. An able expounder of the relation between values and prices recently produced a chart on which were projected two lines, one indicating values and the other prices from 1896 to 1905. The line of values rises steadly from surplus railroad earnings of \$440 a mile in 1897 to \$1,450 per mile in 1903. From the high point of 1903 it sinks to \$1,400 in 1904, and there turns upward again. From the rate at which current railroad earnings are increasing it is evident that the line of values is still rising, and the high point for this year is conservatively estimated at \$1,540 per mile. Thus, since 897, surplus earnings per mile of railroad in this country may be supposed to have increased from \$440 to \$1,540, or 350 per

The line of prices, a much more jagged

and irregular line than that of values, showing all the vicissitudes of Wall Street speculation, rises from an average price of 48.12 for twenty active railroad stocks in 1897 to an average of 129.30 late in 1902. Then came a breakdown in the stock market, due to a top heavy speculative structure in Wall Street, and the average price of those same stocks declined from 129.30 to 88.90, while at the same time surplus railroad earnings declined only from \$1,450 per mile to \$1,400. Early in 1904 the line of prices began to rise again and the high point since then was reached on March 13 ast, when the average price of the twenty railroad stocks was 127.16. The violent reaction of April and May carried it down again to 114.52, and from that point there has been a recovery to above 126. The highest point of the recovery so far was reached last week. The greatest disparity between the two lines was in 1900, when railroad earnings went as high as \$1,180 per mile and the price line went as low as 72.90 The tendency during the next two years was toward a correction of this parity and in 1902 the two lines were in close proximity. In 1903 they went wide apart again, and from a study of the chart it is seen that the recovery in prices from the depression of 1903 has been merely an adjustment of prices to values, such as has been going on more or less steadily since 1897. There is still a disparity between values and prices. It has been shown that surplus earnings, by which values are measured, have increased 350 per cent, since 1897. A corresponding advance of 350 per cent, in prices from the average of 48.12 in 1897 has not taken place. If it had, the average price of the twenty railroad stocks used in these comparisons would be something like 168, whereas, in fact, it is between 126 and 127. The increase of values not only has justified the advance that has taken place in prices in the last eight or nine years, but values have actually been rising more rapidly than prices, and the disparity between them, in favor of prices, is greater to-day

than it was in 1897. It is not easy to comprehend the enormous increase in values that has taken place in the last eight or nine years. Union Pacific is perhaps as fair an example as any. The report of the Union Pacific system for the

Year 1896: Gross Net Other Fixed Balance Earn's, Earn's, Income, Ch'g's, Deficit, \$23,179,278 \$7,870,389 \$1,847,946 \$10,811,941 \$1,893,008

22,477,823 7,207,844 1,789,111 10,481,843 1,534,888 The capital stock of Union Pacific at that time amounted to \$50,868,500. The price range of Union Pacific trust certificates in the stock market for the year 1896 was from 31/2 to 121/2. In so far as value depends upon income Union Pacific stock had then no value at all, for the system was earning a deficit, and the price at which the trust certificates were quoted represented merely the faith that as things never stand still in this world, but must grow either worse or better, Union Pacific's fortunes were bound to mend because they could not get much worse. On nearly \$200,000,000 of stock the Union Pacific is now earning, conservatively estimated, a surplus of 14 per cent. a year. It showed 12 per cent. on the stock outstanding last year, and its earnings are steadily increasing. The stock paid 4 per cent. in dividends last year and has very recently been placed on a 5 per cent. basis. Besides all this it has an apparent profit of not less than \$50,000,000 in its Northern Securities equities, and its investment in the control of the Southern Pacific must soon become productive. It has also large investments in other securities, notably in Atchison shares. It is earning 14 per cent. upon its own common stock without any return on its Southern Pacific holdings. Its profits in the Northern Securities transaction—the net profits-probably cover the entire cost of its acquisition of the control of Southern Pacific. Union Pacific stock itself is selling a little above 130. Who shall say. therefore, that the advance in the price of the stock is not justified by the increase of its value, judged by its dividend yield and earnings beyond? The increase of value in this instance is infinitely more remark-

able than the rise in price expressing it. Men have two ways of judging values. The obvious value of a stock is determined by its vield on the money invested. Stocks that are earning a large surplus over the dividends they yield have a value beyond their immediate return on the money invested. The tendency of investors more and more these days is to look ahead and invest in the future of properties that are piling up large surplus accounts. On the other hand. there is a tendency on the part of corporations to increase dividend disbursements. The list of stocks on which dividends have either been increased or begun this year is an imposing one, and is given in part be-

Divid's Present return to paid 1904. rate stock-Per Cent. Per Cent. holders.

Tenn Coal and Iron.....
Texas Central com.....
*Union Pacific com..... US Cast Iron Pipe pfd....

Total increase of annual return on these

This does not pretend to be a complete list. It includes only two classes of stocks, namely, those in which investors, speculators or both are directly interested, and those on which enlarged dividends increase the earning power of other stocks n which the public is interested. Franchise stocks, such, for example, as Detroit United and American Light and Traction, on both of which dividends have been increased, are omitted, as also are a number of miscellaneous securities like Associated Merchants' first and second preferred, which are not largely held by the public. Extra dividends, of which there have been several, also are left out, with the exception of the extra dividend of one-half of 1 per cent. in addition to the regular 3 per cent. semi-annual dividend on Illinois Central. This extra dividend has been declared twice successively, and Illinois Central is now considered to be on a 7 per cent. basis. The only mining stock included is Amalgamated Copper. Dividends have been increased or begun on a number of other mining

stocks, notably Calumet and Hecla, Copper Range, Osceola Mining, Utah Consolidated, Tamarack and Wolverine. The stocks of several minor industrial corporations are also left out. Altogether dividends have been either increased or begun since the first of the year on 54 stocks-20 railroad stocks, 22 industrial stocks and 12 mining stocks. If everything were included in the figures of increased annual return to stockholders the total would be swelled well over \$20,000,000. It is seen, therefore, not only that the earning power of stocks has been enormously increased in the last few years, but that stockholders are beginning to participate in these increased profits.

It may be argued in a broad way, irrespective of temporary stock market conditions, that the main tendency of prices is still upward; that so long as we continue to pile up increased earnings on top of earnings that were already the largest in the history of our corporations, values will continue to rise and prices to follow them. It would take something in the nature of a calamity to check the expansion of business and industry now progressing on every hand. The country had a very severe test in 1903, when we suffered a breaking down of the stock market and a temporary loss of confidence in the stability of values. There were many sa-gacious heads who feared while this was going on that it would be followed by collapse of business and industrial activity generally throughout the country, but instead there was but a temporary reaction, and as soon as the financial atmosphere began to clear in Wall Street everything outside went ahead again. It is still going ahead. It was a test that Wall Street would not like to see repeated very soon, but it served mightily to stimulate confidence in the stability of general conditions. Very recently the stock market had a test of another kind. That was in the Equitable affair.

Turning from a survey of general conditions to the stock market itself, there is nothing unhealthy in its region. If there were a wild general speculation in progress there would be something to fear, for, inde-pendently of values and everything else, the stock market at times is governed absolutely in its movements by purely speculative conditions, and when there is a top heavy bull speculation in Wall Street it must sooner or later collapse of its own weight. The great strength of the stock market's technical position lies in the fact that since the culmination of the last violent reaction in May it has been entirely free of impetuous speculation for the rise. For two months, indeed, it has answered to the description of a creeping market, and the absence of public interest

has been one of its chief features. There come times in Wall Street when concerted efforts are made to induce public speculation; that is called a selling campaign. There is no evidence as yet of the beginning of such a campaign, but there are men of long experience in stock market affairs who affirm that the improvement now in progress is not likely to culminate. even temporarily, without a much more active and general speculation on a higher level of prices. Conditions seem to favor a market of that kind. There has been an accumulation of influences calculated to stimulate the speculative imagination. notably a long list of dividend increases, with others to come, and once such influences begin to act upon outside opinion public interest in speculation will not be lacking. Commission houses began last week to take hold of the market again with more confidence than they had shown at any previous time since the depression of prices in April and May. Meanwhile, how-ever, as has been stated before, there is evidently no haste on the part of the socalled larger interests to unite upon an aggressive campaign with the end in view of distributing stocks. They have not been making the moves in the market that are necessary to bring the public in.

Outside sentiment hitherto has been very responsive to any pronounced change in the condition of the steel and iron industry. That is why so much significance is attached to the strength of the United States Steel shares by habitual followers of the stock market. The public has been educated to estimate industrial prosperity by the movements of the Steel stocks, and their recovery, therefore, must now be exercising a very favorable effect upon general sentiment outside of Wall Street. After the culmination of the last bull campaign in the Steel stocks, with the preferred selling around 104 and the common around 38, they began to react in a very pronounced manner, and Wall Street people said that you could not bull the stock market with the Steel stocks going down, no matter what other conditions might exist, and governed themselves accordingly. The Steel stocks have been well to the front all through the improvement that has taken place in the market since May, and are the objects now of more earnest attention perhaps than the shares of any other cor-

poration. Persons who have been remarkably successful in their operations in the Steel stocks are very bullish on them at the present time, and along with the preferred stock they are also buying the common, saying that the preferred carries both. It works out in this way: To buy 1,000 shares of Steel preferred calls for an investment of \$103,000. The return on this investment is \$7,000 a year, or nearly 7 per cent. The cost of carrying 1,000 shares of Steel common at 35 with 4 per cent. money is \$1,400. The money invested at these prices in 1,000 shares of each is \$138,000; the preferred stock yields \$7,000 a year, or a trifle more than 5 per cent, on the enLEE, HIGGINSON & CO.

Capital -

tire investment. That is what is mount by the statement that when you buy took the preferred and common in equal amounts the preferred carries the common. The

steel business is in a highly prosperous condition, and unless there should come some abrupt change in the present pros-pect, continued expansion in the steel and

iron industry should be the inspiration for

a much more animated speculation in the United States Steel shares. The same

men who conducted the campaign begin-

ning in 1904 and got out in April are under

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Bowling Green Trust Co. 26 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

JOHN I. WATERBURY, President. Capital, \$2,500,000. Surplus, \$2,500,000 JOHN KEAN. Vice-AMOS TUCK FRENCH, Presidents. OFFICERS: W. N. Duane, 3d Vice-Pres. and Treas.

OFFICERS:

EDWIN GOULDPresident

WILLIAM H. TAYLOR, 1st V.-Presit

CHAS. P. ARMSTRONG. 2d V.-Presit

JOHN A. HILTON, 3d V.-Pres. & Tress. WILLIAM M. LAWS Secretary
DIRECTORS:

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Frank Breinard,
Harry Bronner,
Robert C. Clowry,
Edmund C. Converse,
William M. Lawe,
William M. Servick,
William M. Tawe,
Dick S. Ramsay,
Federick B. Schenck,
William H. Taylor,
Edward R. Thomas,
John A. Hilton,
John A. Hilton,

ITLE GUARANTEE ANDTRUST COMPANY CASTALLA \$10,000,000 DEPOSITS - - \$31,000,000

Accounts Invited. Interest Allowed.

TRUST AND BANKING OFFICES, 146 Broadway, Manhattan. 198 Montague St., Brooklyn.

FINANCIAL. The Ducktown Sulphur, Copper and Iron Company, Limited.

The Ducktown Sulphur. Copper and Iros
Company, Limited.
Sealed proposals will be received at the office
of The Farmers' Loan and Trust Company, Nos.
16, 18, 20 and 22 William Street, New York City.
for the sale to the Trustee, in accordance with the
provisions of the mortgage dated August 9th,
1892, of a sufficient number of bonds to invest
82,860.35 of the Sinking Fund.
Proposals must be presented before 12 o'clock
M. on August 10th, 1905, and should be directed
as follows: Proposals to Sinking Fund of The
Ducktown Sulphur, Copper and Iron Company,
Limited, The Farmers' Loan and Trust Company,
Nos. 18, 18, 20 and 22 William Street, New York
City. City.

THE FARMERS' LOAN AND TRUST CO., Trusted,
By EDWIN S. MARSTON, President.
New York, July 6th, 1905.

Northern Pacific Terminal Co. of Oregon In accordance with the provisions of the red of Trust of the Northern Pacific Termit and the Provisions of the red of Trust of the Northern Pacific Termit and the Pacific Termit and Trust Nos. 152, 330, 377, 439, 556, 587, 747, 851, 884, 859, 1060, 1185, 1285, 1831, 1559, 1918, 2846, 2806, 2072, 3040, 3066, 3186, 2367, 3455, 3617, 3846, 3850, 4165, and will be redeemed by The Farmers Loan and Trust Company, Trustee, at its office, Nos. 16-22 William Street, at 110 and accrued interest, on the 4th day of August, 1805, at which date interest will cease on the above bonds.

THE FARMERS' LOAN AND TRUST CO., Trustee.

By E. S. MARSTON, President.

New York, July 12th, 1906.